

‘Āhihi-Kīna‘u Natural Area Reserve

State of Hawai‘i
Department of Land Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife



Hawaiian tradition teaches that all of us assume a *kuleana*, a responsibility when we enter a land.

The mission of this state Natural Area Reserve is to protect its reefs, anchialine pools, dry land forests, the youngest lava flows on Maui, and numerous archeological sites.

You are one of 1,200 people who will pass through the reserve today, and 300-500 will go into the ocean in the one mile of open coastline. Join us in perpetuating and protecting this special place.

Where Wildlife Comes First: One mile of the reserve’s coastline is open, from the reserve’s north entrance to Kanahena (all of ‘Āhihi Bay).

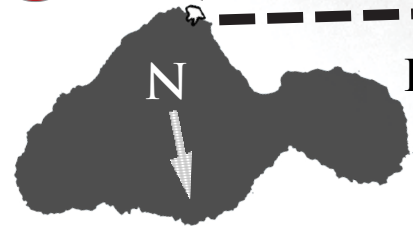
The open area contains the most diverse and abundant reef in the entire reserve. The remaining two miles of reserve coastline is closed. That’s 2.1% of Maui’s coastline where turtles, seals, dolphins, and other native species can live wild, without human disturbance.

Natural Area Reserves are different than parks.

Surf, swim, snorkel or hike?
Sure, but your dog, drone, fishing gear, mountain bike, and any motorized water craft have to be taken to recreational areas outside the reserve.
(HAR §13-209-4, HAR §13-130-19 & HAR §13-13--20)



Rules for state and county sites vary. Turn this map over to see neighboring areas where you can enjoy some of these activities.




Report fishing in the reserve or other resource violations:

**(808) 873-3990 or
(808)643-DLNR**



Follow these laws and guidelines each time you enter the reserve:

1. “Never Stand Unless on Sand” when in the water, and enter the ocean only where there is sand under your fins or feet.

It’s a win-win: you won’t get cuts on your feet that can become dangerously infected, and you won’t kill the fish food growing on the rocks. Look for this fish  on signs marking the best entries at Kanahena Beach and ‘Āhihi Cove.

2. “Where are the dolphins / turtles / rays / sharks / seals?”

View wildlife from a distance. Wildlife protection laws prohibit following, chasing, touching or feeding dolphins, seals, and turtles. Closely approaching or interacting with wild marine animals (even sharks and fish) interrupts daily survival activities, driving them into poor or dangerous habitats.
(16-USC-chapter 31 & HR§195D-4)

3. Wear water-shirts or zinc or titanium sunblocks instead of chemical sunscreens.

Before you buy or apply, read the labels. Chemical sunscreens contain compounds which are highly toxic to corals and fish even in small amounts.

4. Take only photos and memories. It is unlawful to take rocks, coral, plants, wood, animals, or shells from the reserve.

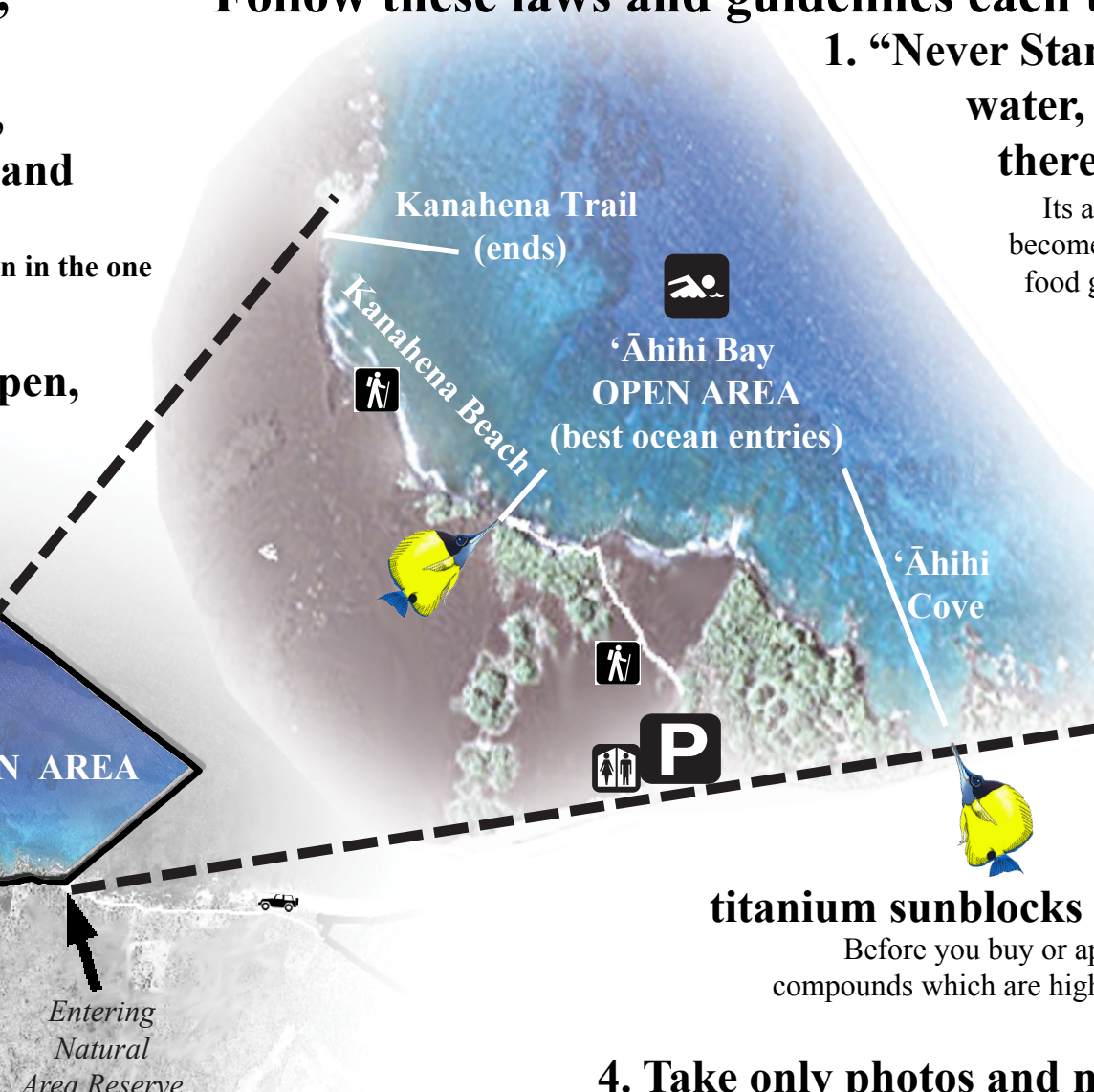
They belong to everyone and must be left where you find them. (HAR §13-209-4)

5. Leave the rocks and coral where nature and history placed them.

Archeological sites abound along this coastline. Stacking or moving rocks or coral to spell messages is vandalism: it destroys history and is culturally disrespectful. (HAR §13-209-4)

6. Let the fish and birds find their own food.

Feeding makes them aggressive, and supports alien species that do not belong in the reserve. Your food scraps, husks, seeds, peels, and shells will not rot in this desert. Pack them out. (HAR §13-209-4)



Moku Honua‘ula, makai

Each day, this portion of south Maui coastline is visited by several thousand people fishing and enjoying ocean and beach activities at state and county sites. This coastline can only support community needs if all of us follow state and county laws and guidelines for each individual site.

Honua‘ula kua la‘ola‘o.

A traditional phrase, said of the people of Honua‘ula who were hard workers with callouses on their backs.



For generations, this coastline has challenged those who live here or visit. There are no places to buy water, food, sturdy footwear or sun-protection once you leave Wailea and Kihei. Cell-phone coverage is unreliable and emergency help may take time to respond.

Are you prepared for the day?

